Appl. No.: 10/675,580 Filing Date: September 30, 2003

Group Art Unit: 3733
Examiner: James L. Swiger III
Atty. Docket No.: 101896-696 (DEP5077USNP)

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- (Previously Presented) An intervertebral fusion device, comprising:
  - (a) a body having a proximal portion along a major axis of the body and a distal portion along the major axis and wherein the body defines a conduit substantially parallel to the major axis, said conduit extending throughout the body; and
  - (b) a support at the distal portion that is configured to support vertebrae in a distracted position while the vertebrae fuse and wherein the support includes a conduit in fluid communication with the conduit defined by the body and having at least one outlet on a surface of the support.

wherein the distal portion of the body is configured to selectively engage the support and at least a portion of the body or the support has a height distinct from a width taken along a cross-section of the portion of the body or support perpendicular to the major axis, whereby the portion of the body or support can distract vertebrae, between which the portion of the body or the support has been placed, by notation of the body or the support about the major axis.

- 2. (Previously presented) The intervertebral fusion device of Claim 1, wherein at least a part of the distal portion of the body has a height distinct from a width taken along the cross-section of the body, whereby the body can distract vertebrae between which at least the part of the distal portion has been placed by rotation of the body about the major axis.
- (Currently Amended) The intervertebral fusion device of <u>Claim 1Claim 2</u>, wherein the support is at least one member selected from the group consisting of a cage, a balloon and a ramp.
- (Currently Amended) The intervertebral fusion device of <u>Claim 1Claim-2</u>, wherein the support is a cage.
- (Currently Amended) The intervertebral fusion device of <u>Claim 4</u>Claim 2, wherein the cage substantially maintains natural angle between the distracted vertebrae.
- (Currently Amended) The intervertebral fusion device of <u>Claim 4Claim 2</u>, wherein the cage substantially maintains natural angle between the distracted vertebrae upon detachment of the body

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from the cage.

7-10. (Canceled).

 (Currently Amended) The intervertebral fusion device of <u>Claim 1Claim-2</u>, wherein the support includes a balloon.

12. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral fusion device of <u>Claim 11 Claim 2</u>, wherein the support further includes at least one material selected from the group consisting of morsellized autograft, demineralized bone matrix, bone marrow aspirate, bone marrow concentrate, platelet-rich plasma, hyaluronic acid, collagen, calcium phosphate cements, and bioabsorbable polymers.

13. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral fusion device of Claim 12, wherein at least one of the morsellized autograft, demineralized bone matrix, bone marrow aspirate, bone marrow concentrate, platelet-rich plasma, hyaluronic acid, collagen, calcium phosphate cements, and bioabsorbable polymers are within the [[a]] balloon.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Previously presented) The intervertebral fusion device of Claim 1, wherein the support has a height distinct from a width taken along the cross section of the support, whereby the support can distract vertebrae between which the support has been placed, by rotation of the body and the support about the major axis.

16-23. (Canceled).

(Previously Presented) A kit for providing a fusion-promoting material comprising:

(a) an intervertebral fusion device, said device including

a body having a proximal portion along a major axis of the body and a distal
portion along the major axis and wherein the body defines a conduit substantially
parallel to the major axis, said conduit extending throughout the body; and

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- (ii) a support at the distal portion that is configured to support vertebrae in a distracted position while the vertebrae fuse and wherein the support defines a conduit in fluid communication with the conduit defined by the body and having at least one outlet on a surface of the support, wherein the distal portion of the body is configured to selectively engage the support and at least a portion of the body or the support has a height distinct from a width taken along a cross-section of the portion of the body or support perpendicular to the major axis, whereby the portion of the body or support can distract vertebrae, between which the portion of the body or the support has been placed, by rotation of the body or the support about the major axis; and
- (b) a flowable material selected from the group consisting of morsellized autograft, demineralized bone matrix, bone marrow aspirate, bone marrow concentrate, platelet-rich plasma, hyaluronic acid, collagen, calcium phosphate cements, bioabsorbable polymers and bone growth.

## 25-36. (Canceled).

- (Previously presented) The intervertebral fusion device of claim 1, wherein the support is semi-permeable.
- (Previously presented) The intervertebral fusion device of claim 1, wherein the support is biodegradable.
- 39. (Previously presented) An intervertebral fusion device, comprising:
  - (a) a body having a proximal portion along a major axis of the body and a distal portion along the major axis and wherein the body defines a conduit substantially parallel to the major axis, said conduit extending throughout the body; and
  - (b) a selectively expandable balloon at the distal portion that is configured to support vertebrae in a distracted position while the vertebrae fuse and wherein an inner volume of the expandable balloon is in fluid communication with the conduit defined by the body, the balloon being formed of a biodegradable polymer.

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40. (Previously presented) The intervertebral fusion device of claim 39, wherein the balloon is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of low-molecule weight polymers of lactic acid, glycolic acid, hydroxylated poly(glycolic-co-lactic) acid, collagen, and oxidized regenerated cellulose.